

Brice Dellsperger

video works from the *Body Double* series

the gallery

sketch

9 Conduit Street, London W1S 2XG

www.sketch.uk.com

Brice Dellsperger's website: www.bodydoublex.com

20 March – 8 May 2004

Open to the public:

Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm

Tube: Oxford Circus/Piccadilly Circus

Free admission

"I want my films to be like a dream-like memory of a movie.
They are meant to show how your dreams are influenced by movies."
-Brice Dellsperger



Since 1995, Brice Dellsperger has undertaken a postmodern re-reading of cinema by adapting over fifteen celebrated movie sequences, all under the generic title *Body Double*, referencing Brian De Palma's 1984 film of the same name. The term 'body double' also alludes to film production – it is the name given to an actor's stand-in, the crew member used for shooting special effects and other types of scenes. Dellsperger notes that the stand-in is generally a regular individual who takes the place of a celebrity, and the artist pushes this concept even further by considering himself a 'body double' for a director.

Carefully selecting very specific, key sequences from canonical cinema history, Dellsperger directs the recreation of scenes from films including John Badham's *Saturday Night Fever*, Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*, Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, Ken Russell's *Women in Love*, David Lynch's *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* and *Mulholland Drive*, Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*, Richard Marquand's *Return of the Jedi*, and Brian de Palma's *Dressed to Kill*, *Body Double*, *Blow Out*, and *Obsession*. Meticulously reconstructing the *mis-en-scene* of each original, Dellsperger recreates the scenes with his friends, often transvestites, playing virtually all of the characters. They lip-synch to the original soundtrack, and for the viewer, confusion ensues, as it becomes difficult to tell one character apart from another. Pasting together disparate footage of the same person creates additional slippages, and with sketch's unique twelve-screen projection set-up, there will be a compounding of this confusion through a repetition of characters, reinforcing the cloning effect already present in the works themselves.

Dellsperger's use of transvestites may seem to locate the artist within a contemporary discourse on gender, yet the device is less about sexuality than it is about cinema, image, and the construction of a *mis-en-scene*. Like Warhol, Dellsperger addresses cinematic glamour, confronting the mainstream filmmaking process and its inherent cult of personality. The low-budget appearance of the finished works conceals a surprisingly elaborate and professional production method.

Ultimately, Dellsperger's works are funny and entertaining, and demonstrate the artist's deep love of popular culture and celebrity.

Brice Dellsperger was born in 1972. He lives and works in Paris.

His work has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art's Mediascope, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Team Gallery, New York; Galerie Air de Paris, Paris; Galerie Lisa Ruyter, Vienna; Villa Arson, Nice; Art Basel Miami Beach; Art 33 Basel – Art Unlimited; Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol; Bluecoat Art Centre, Liverpool; and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris. He has received coverage in, among others, the *New York Times*, *Flash Art*, *Time Out New York*, *Cahiers du Cinema*, *Numero*, and *Le Journal des Arts*.

screenings at sketch:

Body Double 13 (1999) – 3min 20sec, starring Brice Dellsperger. Sequence after John Badham's *Saturday Night Fever*
Dellsperger plays both roles himself as he humorously recreates the couple's dance floor spin.

Body Double 16 (2003) – 6min24sec, starring Jean-Luc Verna. Sequence after Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* and Ken Russell's *Women in Love*

Brice Dellsperger's most recent work, *Body Double 16* is the first time the artist has done a remake in two parts, and is notably based on two British films. The recreation of a lesser-known scene from Kubrick's cult classic is juxtaposed with the famous naked wrestling scene from Russell's film, which, like *A Clockwork Orange*, was banned in England for its 'obscene' content.

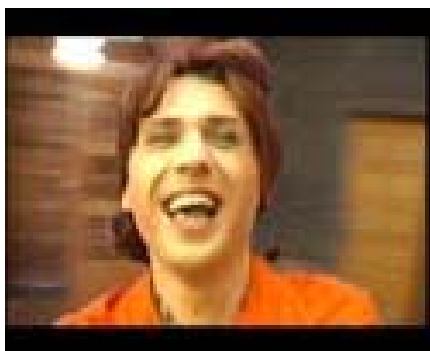
Body Double 17 (2001) – 16min 27 sec, starring Gwen Roch and Morgane Rousseau. Sequence after David Lynch's *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*
Dellsperger uses sisters to play all of the roles in this remake of the roadhouse scene from *Fire Walk With Me*. Though not twins, the sisters look so alike that it becomes increasingly difficult to tell them apart.



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For high-resolution images or any further details please contact the gallery on +44 (0)870 770 6515 or at gallery@sketch.uk.com.

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still from Body Double 13



still from Body Double 13



still from Body Double 16



still from Body Double 16



still from Body Double 16



still from Body Double 16



still from Body Double 16



still from Body Double 16



still from Body Double 17



still from Body Double 17



still from Body Double 17



still from Body Double 17

NEXT EXHIBITION: Tracey Emin – 22 May – 3 July 2004

